

# HIT Policy Committee: NHIN Workgroup Planning Document

## Authentication Hearing Overview

January 7, 2010

**Objective:** To inform the NHIN Workgroup deliberations by providing context and testimony regarding different technical approaches for authentication with respect to the NHIN scenarios for meaningful use.

**Scope:** For the purpose of this testimony, authentication is intended to cover establishing an identity, assigning credential and permissions to that entity. The focus should be on organization-to-organization authentication as well as authentication at the individual (such as provider) level.

**Testimony Format:** The testimony is being organized into three panels. Each testifier is asked to please provide written testimony and address the questions outlined below. Testifiers will have 3-5-minutes to provide verbal testimony at the hearing to highlight key points from the written testimony. Please limit detailed technical descriptions in the testimony. Supplemental materials with additional technical details can be provided as an appendix to the testimony if desired.

### Questions:

1. What trust problems are you trying to solve and for what range of users (e.g. organizations, individuals, health care professionals, consumers)? Please provide some quantitative data if possible to characterize your user base (e.g., percentage or number of each type).
2. Who pays for the solution, implementation, processes and support for your approach? What factors contribute to the total cost of ownership of the technologies, including process costs? What are the implications to widespread deployment?
3. Directory services often support some certificate authority or other authentication mechanism. As you look more broadly at the architecture, how do your approaches work with such directory services?
4. Does your approach support a delegated authentication model where there is an authorized registrar that issues the authentication credentials to individuals? If so, how? Are there implications for interoperability in this scenario?
5. What should be the role of government? Where can rapid action address common concerns or limitations of trust?

*Please see the hearing agenda for more details regarding the logistics and times for each panel.*